



SS. PETER AND PAUL ORTHODOX CHURCH

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SERVICES January 7, 2018 - January 14, 2018

Sunday, January 7, 2018.....9:00 am – Hours; 9:30 am – Divine Liturgy; Sunday School; Coffee Hour

Wednesday, January 10, 2018.....6:00 pm – Healing Service

Saturday, January 13, 2018.....5:00 pm - Vespers

**Sunday, January 14, 2018.....9:00 am – Hours; 9:30 am – Divine Liturgy; Sunday School; Coffee Hour;
Adult Study/Bible Study**

JANUARY 7, 2018

EPISTLE: EPHESIANS 4:7-13

But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore He says: "When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, And gave gifts to men." (Now this, "He ascended" – what does it mean but that He also first descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.) And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 4:12-17

Now when Jesus heard that John had been put in prison, He departed to Galilee. And leaving Nazareth, He came and dwelt in Capernaum, which is by the sea, in the regions of Zebulun and Naphtali, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying: "The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, by the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles: The people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and upon those who sat in the region and shadow of death Light has dawned." From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

NEXT WEEK: JANUARY 14, 2017 1 TIMOTHY 1:15-17 LUKE 18:35-43

THE SACRED WATER OF THE JORDAN RIVER

The Baptism of our Lord is closely identified with the Jordan River; a body of water that had great significance for the Israelites long before this mysterious event. After wandering in the wilderness for 40 years, this was the river

God's chosen people crossed to enter the "promised land." It was from the banks of the Jordan that the Prophet Elias was taken up into heaven by a chariot of fire. It was also in these waters that Elisha - the successor of Elias - commanded that Naaman the Syrian wash and be cleansed of leprosy. The Second Book of Kings chronicles how Naaman was skeptical of this, claiming that the rivers of Damascus could be used to cleanse him just as well. Nevertheless, he did as Elisha instructed him to do, and he was healed.

This was the river to which Christ came to be baptized. It was already "sacred water" for the Israelites, and our Lord's baptism in the Jordan served to reinforce Christ's claim to be the Messiah. There is no doubt that its relevance was not lost on the pious Jews of His time. Nor should its importance be lost on us either.

We cannot cross over into the "promised land" of God's heavenly kingdom unless Christ leads us there, just as Joshua led the Israelites across the Jordan. Only Christ can wash and cleanse us of our spiritual illnesses. He is our only source of spiritual healing - just as Naaman had only one source of assistance for his physical ailments.

As we celebrate the great Feast Day of Theophany, may we remember how the Jordan River was sanctified forever by Christ's baptism in its waters.

January 7, 2018

PRAYER LIST : We offer our prayers for all of our shut-ins who are unable to attend church services, especially: *Pauline Russell, Vera Tatusko and William Tellep Jr.*

Also offer your prayers for those in need especially *Vladimir Alexeev, Helen Baburchak, Lawrence Barlow, Matushka Joanna Bohush, Lydia Boras, Laura Chapin, David Davies, Nadine Dranchak, Thanos Fotiou, Marge Herciga, Natalie Kostyshak, Ann Koval, Emelia Kulikowski, Robert Kushner, Linda Main; Alberta McHenry, George Murphy, Tanya Pylypciw, Janeel Rahman, Sheila Ransom, Joni Mitchell, Jeannie Sura; Millie Sviatyla, Dorothy Tarasevich, Arlene Tatusko, Rachele Vitale, Olga Warski & all of our parishioners who are ill.*

To add or remove names from the prayer list in the bulletin, please let Fr. Alexey or Fr. Timm know. **Thank you!**

MEMORY ETERNAL! We offer our condolences to:

- Norman and Janet Cross and family on the falling asleep in the Lord of Norm's sister, **Sylvia Jean Joseph.** Sylvia is the mother of Bishop Thomas of the Antiochian Orthodox Church.

MAY HER MEMORY BE ETERNAL!



COFFEE HOUR: Come downstairs and socialize with your brothers and sisters in Christ.

Today: Sue Watson, Kathy Fedorchak, Mat. Joanna Bohush, Marie Williams, Cathy Stephens

Jan. 14: Elaine Costello, Jeannie Sura, Christine Costello, Mat. Michele Holowatch, Mike Pylypciw, Deanne Johnston, Lisa Dutcher

Jan. 21: Tamara Sytnik, Ludmila Boychenko, Natalia Nikulin, Vera Yaremko, Marina Pomukchynsky

THANK YOU! Special thanks to ALL of the workers who dedicated their time at the baking and cooking workshops for our Christmas Bake Sale, and to all the people who participated in any way to make this another successful fundraiser. The Profit of over \$13,000. Thank you and God Bless you all!!!

HOUSE BLESSINGS As is the Holy custom of our people during Theophany season, the houses of our parishioners will be blessed. If you would like Fr. Alexey or Fr. Timm to come and bless your house in January & February, please fill out the form enclosed in your January Monthly Bulletin and return it to the Church Office or contact Fr. Alexey or Fr. Timm for a mutually convenient time.

January 20, 2018 –Pasta Dinner - 4:00 – 8:00 pm at our church. This is a fundraiser for the basketball league to benefit the celebration of the 50th Anniversary of continuous Sports Ministries of our churches in the Triple Cities, Our Orthodox Basketball League is the longest continuous running league in the country. We plan to celebrate this great jubilee of ministry to our youth and parishes with a special celebration later in 2018. Please come and support this fundraiser and enjoy great fellowship, food and raffles. THANK YOU AND GOD BLESS

2018 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING SUNDAY, JANUARY 28, 2018 immediately following Divine Liturgy.

Everyone is encouraged to attend and to take part in charting the direction of the life of our church for the next year. Reports / Budgets are due before for the Annual Meeting by Monday, January 15, 2018.

PLEASE NOTIFY OUR CHURCH OFFICE OF ANY ADDRESS, PHONE # OR EMAIL CHANGES TO OUR MAILING LIST. THERE IS A FORM IN THE OFFICE AND ON THE STAND IN THE VESTIBULE OF THE CHURCH.



to all our visitors and guests who participate in our celebration of the Divine Liturgy! While Holy Communion may only be received by prepared Orthodox Christians, our non-Orthodox guests are welcome to join us in venerating the Cross & receiving blessed bread at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy. We invite all of our guests to join us for our Fellowship Hour & to visit our Bookstore.

NOTE: Our new website has been constructed, updated and ready to use: sppeny.org

For bulletin inputs, contact Fr. Alexey, Fr. Timm or Stella Holowatch (607-205-1507) – email Stellah@stny.rr.com